



## LISNAGRY NATIONAL SCHOOL STAY SAFE POLICY

### Introductory Statement

The staff and management of Lisnagry National School have developed and agreed this policy in line with current recommendations and guidelines relating to child abuse prevention and child protection guidelines (Child Abuse Prevention Programme 2019).

**This policy addresses the responsibilities of the school in the following areas:**

- (a) Prevention – curriculum provision
- (b) Procedures – procedures for dealing with concerns / disclosures
- (c) Practice – best practice in child protection

**A copy of this policy will be made available on [www.lisnagryns.ie](http://www.lisnagryns.ie). It is incumbent on all staff to familiarise themselves with ‘Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017’ and the Department of Education and Science Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures.**

### Aims

**This policy aims to:**

- Create a safe, trusting, responsive and caring environment by valuing each child's contribution and work through praise and encouragement.
- Provide personal safety skills education which specifically addresses abuse and prevention for all children in the school. The children in our care may not always or may not be capable of talking about their problems. All staff should observe and spend time to get to know the children and how they may hide their worries and problems.
- Develop awareness and responsibility in the area of child protection amongst the whole school community.
- Put in place appropriate procedures for good practice to protect all children and staff.
- Ensure all staff members are aware of and familiar with the ‘Children First’ and the Department of Education and Science guidelines and procedures in relation to reporting concerns and/or disclosures of child abuse and bullying.

### Prevention

Lisnagry National School uses the ‘Stay Safe’ programme to provide education for children on abuse prevention. This programme is taught as part of the school's SPHE curriculum under strand unit Safety & Protection. As per best practice recommendations it will be taught on a rolling two year cycle in the second term of the year. Children from junior infants to 6<sup>th</sup> class participate in formal lessons on the Stay Safe programme.

## **Procedures**

All staff (Teachers SNAs, ancillary, secretarial, caretaking etc.) in this school will follow the recommendations for reporting concerns or disclosures as outlined in the 'Children First' and the Department of Education and Science document, 'Child Protection Guidelines & Procedures'.

The Board of Management of this school has appointed Ms. Eimear Carroll as Designated Liaison Person (DLP) and Mr. Michael Feeney as Deputy DLP.

### **The staff and management of this school have agreed:**

- All staff be aware of the school Code of Behaviour.
- All staff are committed to the prevention of physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children.
- All concerns/disclosures involving child protection / child welfare issues will be reported in the first instance to the DLP (Deputy DLP where appropriate). All staff are aware of the steps involved in this process.
- Each report to the DLP will be dated and signed by the person making that report.
- A strict adherence to maintaining confidentiality – information regarding concerns or disclosures of abuse should only be given on a 'need to know' basis.
- All staff are recognised as mandated persons and have the capacity to make a direct report to Tusla if they are concerned about the safety/welfare of a child.

### **The staff and management of this school recognize the children's rights and will treat them with dignity and respect by:**

- Not accepting threatening, violent or degrading behaviour.
- Telling children their rights and responsibilities.
- Treating the children as individuals.
- Involving children.
- Making time for children to talk and listen to them.
- The right for all non-verbal children to communicate using augmentative / alternative communication system.

## **Stay Safe Programme**

It is the policy of the school that the Stay Safe Programme is taught in its entirety on a rolling two year cycle. Teachers and parents work together to ensure that children learn the coping skills they need to keep safe.

Through the Stay Safe Programme each child will be taught:

- How to raise concerns or discuss problems they may have.
- Take away the secrecy on which abuse thrives and provide a safe and supportive atmosphere within the school to encourage children to speak out.
- Each child be made aware of their rights and that the school will protect them and not cover up problems.
- Practical skills to deal with difficulties they may encounter regarding their personal safety.
- How to recognize threatening or bullying behaviour and ways in which to deal with this.

## **Parental Involvement**

Parent(s) or Guardians are encouraged to become involved by discussing lessons with their child and helping their child to complete each worksheet based on the lessons in the programme.

Teachers will inform parents in advance of commencement that the Stay Safe Programme is due to be taught and direct them to [www.pdst.ie/staysafe](http://www.pdst.ie/staysafe) for any further information (see Appendix 1).

In the event that a parent withdraws their child from the Stay Safe Programme a written record of their reasons for doing so will be kept on file.

Staff will be facilitated to attend CPD training in the Stay Safe Programme.

This plan was ratified by the Board of Management at a meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2023.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ (Chairperson Board of Management)